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1. "THE ISRAELI STRIKE AND THE NAZI PARALLEL", WASHINGTON STAR, JOHN P. ROCHE

BEFORE THE DISCUSSION OF ISRAEL'S ATTACK ON THE IRAQI NUCLEAR REACTOR BECOMES OVERLAID WITH 10 LAYERS OF IRRELEVANT RHETORIC, LET US EMPHASIZE SQUARE ONE: SINCE 1948 IRAQ HAS BEEN AT WAR WITH ISRAEL.

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INDEED, THE IRAQIS, SAFELY BUFFERED BEHIND SYRIA AND JORDAN, HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST FEROCIOUS ANTI-ISRAELIS, THE QUINTESSENTIAL TIGERS. FOR OVER 30 YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN BELLOWING, "GET IN THERE AND KILL THEM;" NOW ISRAEL HAS MADE THE QUITE LOGICAL DECISION THAT IF IRAQ IS AT WAR WITH HER, SHE IS AT WAR WITH IRAQ.

ACTUALLY, ISRAEL HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH IRAQ; ONE OF THE RULES OF LIFE IS THAT YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR AN EDUCATION. ISRAEL HAS WAITED OVER 30 YEARS TO SEND A BILL TO BAGHDAD. THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD THE IRAQIS HAVE HAD THE OPTION OF MAKING PEACE; RECENTLY THEY COULD HAVE JOINED EGYPT IN THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS.

INSTEAD THEY AND THE LIBYANS, PLUS THE SOVIET STOOGES IN SOUTH YEMEN HAVE BEEN THE ULTRA-REJECTIONISTS.

NATURALLY, ALL IRAQ'S ARAB "BROTHERS" HAD TO MAKE INDIGNANT NOISES, BUT IN PRIVATE THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF REJOICING. IRAQ'S ATTACK ON IRAN, FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOT EXACTLY CHEER THE SAUDIS AND TERRIFIED THE KUWAITIS. IRAQ HAS SOME SORT OF CLAIM ON KUWAIT AND ONLY BRITISH INTERVENTION IN 1961 RESCUED HER FROM BAGHDAD'S CLUTCHES.

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THENTHEREIS EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT, WHO CRIED ALL THE WAY TO THE MOSQUE WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS. SADAT HAS BEEN THE MAIN ENEMY OF THE REJECTIONISTS - THEY HAVE CALLED FOR HIS OVERTHROW AND MURDER - AND IT IS ALLEGED THAT ON TWO OCCASIONS THE EGYPTIAN SECURITY FORCES WERE ALERTED BY ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE, MOSSAD, TO IMPENDING ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS.

HE IS BUSY HELPING IRAN AGAINST IRAQ IN THE FORGOTTEN WAR, AND IS PROBABLY TRYING TO PUT OUT A CONTRACT ON IRAQ'S PAL, LIBYA'S COLONEL KADDAFI, WHO HAS ALSO CALLED FOR HIS DE-STRUCTION.
ARAB UNITY: IN SHORT, EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, YOU SEE ARAB UNITY AGAINST THE SAVAGE ISRAELIS: EVEN JORDAN AND SYRIA ARE SUPPORTING OPPOSITE SIDES IN THE GULF WAR.
MOREOVER, THIS COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE "OIL WEAPON" HAS LOST ITS EFFECTIVENESS: THERE IS AN UNPRECEDENTED GLUT. AND THE SOVIET UNION WHICH OBVIOUSLY PROVIDED IRAQ WITH SUPERB AIR DEFENSES AND MIG INTERCEPTORS, IS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE IMPENDING POSSIBILITY OF A WARSAW-LESS PACT.
SO IT'S OFF TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL WHERE ISRAEL IS TO BE ACCUSED OF "INTERNATIONAL PIRACY" AND OTHER RANDOM FELONIES. RECALLING THE STATE OF WAR BETWEEN IRAQ AND ISRAEL, THIS IS COMPARABLE TO THE NAZIS ACCUSING US OF UNWARRANTED AGGRESSION IN INVADING NORMANDY.
TRUE, ISRAEL HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY SOCKED IRAQ, BUT THAT CAN-NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A PRECEDENT. THE ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL OVERFLIGHTS OF SAUDI ARABIA AND POSSIBLY JORDAN FALL INTO THE SAME CATEGORY: BOTH STATES ARE TECHNICALLY AT WAR WITH ISRAEL.
WHY THEN DID THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE A FIT OVER THE ISRAELIS TAKING-OUT A PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE MILI-TARY TARGET IN WARTIME? IT WAS NOT A CARPET-POMPING OF BAGHDAD, COMPARABLE TO OUR WORLD WAR II RAIDS ON HAMBURG OR TOKYO WITH BALEFUL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BUT A SURGICAL STRIKE.
BUT, THE ARGUMENT GOES, OUR F-15S AND 16S USED IN THE ATTACK ARE PROVIDED WITH THE STIPULATION THEY BE EMPLOYED ONLY FOR

"DEFENSIVE" PURPOSES.
FINE. ASK YOURSELF THIS QUESTION, IN WARTIME IS IT A LEGI-TIMATE "DEFENSIVE" ACT TO ELIMINATE AN ENEMY'S POTENTIAL WEAPONS-SYSTEM? AS ISRAELI SPOKESMEN HAVE POINTED OUT, HAD THEY WAITED UNTIL THE REACTOR WAS "HOT" THE FALL-OUT FROM A DEMOLITION COULD HAVE KILLED THE POPULATION OF BAGHDAD. SURELY IT WAS BETTER TO DISPOSE OF IT BEFORE THAT APPALLING CHOICE HAD TO BE FACED.

A PERFECT PARALLEL: THERE IS A PERFECT PARALLEL ONCE WE GET IT THROUGH OUR THICK SKULLS THAT A STATE OF WAR EXISTS BETWEEN IRAQ AND ISRAEL: IN WORLD WAR II WE WERE AFRAID THE NAZIS MIGHT BE DEVELOPING A ATOMIC BOMB. ONE POSSIBLE ROUTE TOWARD NUCLEAR FISSION REQUIRED LARGE AMOUNTS OF "HEAVY WATER," AND THE MAIN GERMAN PLANT CREATING THIS STUFF WAS IN NORWAY. TWICE WE LAUNCHED COMMANDO RAIDS TO ELIMINATE THIS FACILITY.
SIMILARLY WHEN WE GOT WIND OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FOKKER WOLF JET FIGHTERS THE LUFTWAFFE ALMOST GOT IN TIME, WE LAUNCHED SEVERAL SUICIDE RAIDS ON THE FACTORIES THAT MADE THE KEY COMPONENTS - THE SUBJECT OF A FINE CLARK GABLE MOVIE "COMMAND DECISION." IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY HAS HIS WEAPON OPERATIONAL BEFORE YOU TRY TO DESTROY IT.
NOW AS THE HOWLS GO UP AT FOGGY BOTTOM AND TURTLE BAY, JUST REPEAT TO YOUSELF EVERY HALF HOUR: "IRAQ IS AT WAR WITH ISRAEL." THAT IS THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF THE WHOLE MATTER: WAR, AFTER ALL, IS PLAYED FOR KEEPS AND IRAQ HAD ANNOUNCED ITS NUCLEAR BOMBS WERE RESERVED FOR "THE ZIONIST ENTITY."
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2. "WHY WEAPONS FOR EITHER CHINA?", NYT
SECRETARY HAIG'S VISIT TO PEKING IS NOT JUST YOUR ORDINARY DIPLOMATIC FORAY. IT SIGNIFIES THAT EVEN THE MOST CONSERVATIVE OF RECENT PRESIDENTS NOW ACCEPTS THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF DOING BUSINESS WITH A COUNTRY HE USED TO DISMISS AS MARXIST AND GODLESS. A LOT OF RIGHT-WING DOGMA HAS BEEN SILENTLY INTERRED AS MR. REAGAN "NORMALIZES" TIES WITH CHINA. BUT THOSE TIES MAY YET BE UNGLUED BY A CAMPAIGN PROMISE TO UPGRADE AMERICAN RELATIONS SOMEHOW WITH TAIWAN. THE KEY TO OPENING RELATIONS WITH PEKING WAS AGREEMENT THAT THERE EXISTS ONLY ONE CHINA, WITH THE TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT PEKING WOULD NOT USE FORCE TO RETAKE TAIWAN. SINCE TAIWAN ALSO INSISTS IT SPEAKS FOR ONE CHINA, FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ACCEPT THAT LOCUTION WAS WELL WORTH THE HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH.
SO MR. REAGON WISELY RETREATED FROM A CARELESS STATEMENT THAT HE GUESSED" HE FAVORED OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. THERE IS NO MORE TALK ABOUT UNDOING THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT OF 1979, WHICH PUTS AMERICAN DIPLOMACY ON AN "UNOFFICIAL" BASIS. THE PRESIDENT'S LOYALTY TO TAIWAN HAS TAKEN A DIFFERENT FORM - WEAPONRY. FROM ITS START, HIS ADMINISTRATION GAVE ITS ENCOURAGEMENT TO A TAIWANESE PURCHASE OF THE HIGHLY ADVANCED FX FIGHTER PLANE, FAR SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING PEKING HAS. TAIWAN DOES NOT NEED SUCH PLANES - BUT THEY WOULD BETOKEN MR. REAGAN'S SINCERITY. . . . . CHINA'S LEADERS VIEW THE ARMS AS AN AFFRONT, EVEN A HUMILIATION. MR. HAIG CAN DOUBTLESS ARGUE THAT AS A MATTER OF RIGHT, CHINA HAS NO VETO OVER ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN. HE CAN

POINT OUT THAT WASHINGTON IS NOW WILLING TO LIFT ARCHAIC CURBS ON THE EXPORT OF TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA - INDEED, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS PROPOSING THAT CHINA GET THE SAME TRADING STATUS AS YUGOSLAVIA. THAT WOULD GIVE PEKING THE

RIGHT TO BUY WEAPONS, SUBJECT TO CASE-BY-CASE REVIEW. BUT THE CHINESE ARE AWARE THAT EVEN THE PENTAGON NOW QUESTIONS WHETHER IT IS WORTH ANGERING PEKING TO MOLLIFY TAIPEI. CHINA HAS, IN ANY CASE, MADE A FURTHER CONCESSION TO TAIWANESE ANXIETY BY SOFTENING ITS OBJECTIONS TO EXISTING AMERICAN SALES TO TAIWAN, RUNNING ABOUT $800 MILLION A YEAR.

MR. REAGAN MAY BELIEVE THAT CHINA WILL GO ONLY SO FAR IN PROTESTING THE FX DEAL BECAUSE IT HAS INVESTED TOO HEAVILY IN ITS AMERICAN CONNECTION, BECAUSE IT FEARS THE RUSSIANS TOO MUCH AND BECAUSE CHINA WANTS AMERICAN WEAPONS. BUT SUPPOSE THAT THIS HARD CALCULATION IS CORRECT. DOES WASHINGTON REALLY WANT TO BECOME A SUPPLIER OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY TO CHINA OR TAIWAN? THERE MAY BE REASON TO SUPPLY CHINA WITH LOW-LEVEL MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, BUT TO JUMP UPWARD WOULD UNNECESSARILY PROVOKE THE SOVIET UNION. THE CASE APPEARS OVERWHELMING FOR DEFERRING THE PLANES FOR TAIWAN - AND FOR MOVING SLOWLY ON ANY WEAPONS FOR PEKING. STOESSEL

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